

THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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How Fort Erie Prospered

The Times-Review, published in Fort Erie, Ontario, has turned out a very attractive supplement in celebration of its golden jubilee. Editorially, the Times-Review says it regards this event as something more than a milestone in the life of a newspaper; it is also a chapter in the great story of friendly international relations that have been constantly enlarging along the Niagara river during the past half century. Politically, Canada and United States are two countries; but at this tip end of the Niagara Peninsula we continue to regard the boundary as a place where we explain things to immigration officials—socially and geographically we are one people. Even the hand of nature has turned itself to shape our topography so that Fort Erie and environs are closely to Buffalo than some of that city's suburbs. Here, during the past fifty years, the story of improved international relations has been realistically demonstrated. Old border disputes over the divine right of kings and the prerogatives of presidents have been sublimated to the idea that we are all brothers under the skin—all with the same ideas and embracing similar principles.

The evolution of the automobile has been a godsend to Fort Erie, for it was this, according to the Times-Review, which brought to fruition the Peace Bridge and establishment of Fort Erie as the second busiest automobile point of entry along the whole Canadian-United States border.

Here is a striking example of how one small section of Ontario has benefited under Confederation as a result of its geographical position and the building of an international highway in the form of a bridge. Motor vehicles pay no toll over this highway; they come and go in thousands every day, subject only to the usual customs regulations. Far different to the handicaps placed in the way of this Island Province in maintaining communication with the mainland! The King Government has "passed the buck" to the Transport Commission on the question of exorbitant truck rates charged on our Borden-Tormentine ferry, and in the meantime the whole service is liable to break down at any time. So far as transportation is concerned it is easier for Ontario farmers in the Fort Erie area to reach the American market than it is for our Island farmers to truck their products to Nova Scotia. This is only one example of the very uneven results of Confederation, which has left us with a smaller population than we had a half century ago, and benefited other sections to an almost unbelievable extent.

First Freedom Threatened

The value of the local newspaper was never more strongly highlighted than in a recent book entitled "The First Freedom," by Morris I. Ernst. The author's reference in his title is to the first of Roosevelt's Four Freedoms—"Freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world." It is his contention that this freedom is seriously threatened in the United States, and he presents a statistical survey of concentrated economic power in the realm of communication that is alarming. The press, the radio, the movies—all show the same tendency toward the concentration of control that has long been familiar in the field of industry. While population grows, the number of daily and weekly newspapers declines, and as great chains take over newspapers, competition is eliminated.

"Ten States," Mr. Ernst writes, "have not a single city with competing daily papers. Fourteen companies own eighteen papers control about one-quarter of our total daily circulation. Three hundred and seventy chain newspapers own about one-fifth of all our circulation. More than a quarter of our daily circulation is absentee-owned. We have a thousand weeklies but less than a few decades ago. Thirty-two weeklies have disappeared. One company dominates more than 3,000 weeklies."

The situation in the moving-picture and radio industries is described as even more alarming. Through ownership of key theatres, production of raw-film stock, and cunningly written contracts five great companies completely dominate the motion picture field. Four networks exercise a comparable dominion over the air. In fact, "thirty or forty men own the main access to America's mind."

In more than 1,200 American cities there is only one newspaper. There are only 117 cities in the United States where there is more than one newspaper ownership—"where in democratic fashion there is the capacity for daily debate." In more than 100 districts the only newspaper owns the only radio station. A score of persons own those Sunday papers which account for more than half the Sunday circulation from Maine to California. The joy of controversy, the heat of debate, is departing from the American newspapers as a whole. Mr. Ernst says that this is no mere theory. He says it is the lack of the strong voice of an enlightened and aroused public which caused Congress to

fumble with the Lend-Lease proposals, and the Draft Bill, the latter of which passed by a single vote. It is now plain that both of them were vital to the defeat of Germany and Japan. But the American public was uninformed, and therefore apathetic. What is most ominous is that the trends which alarm Mr. Ernst are continuing, and probably more rapidly than ever.

The local paper, like the local merchant and local industry generally, fills a need which no chain organizations can ever supply. That is Mr. Ernst's moral, and it is quite as applicable to Britain and Canada as it is to our American neighbors.

Unfortunately one of the main causes of the development of the chain system of newspapers is the steadily increasing cost of production. Not only is the raw material, such as paper and ink, on the ascent but also the mechanical cost of production. The outstanding increase, however, is in the provision of authoritative and reliable news from all over the world. The daily reader today expects his local newspaper to provide him with the latest and best informed news and opinions on world affairs. This of course plays into the hands of moneyed classes who seek and obtain control of chains such as the Beaverbrook chain in England and the Hearst-Patterson chains in the United States.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tomorrow the last Sunday of our best summer month.

Summerside was crowded with autos all day yesterday for the dry-goods' merchants sales.

It is reported that the attorney-general, Mr. Large a native of Prince County, may seek nomination as Liberal candidate for the Second District in succession to the late Mr. Dennis.

Now we are told by the Chancellor of McMaster's University we are educating so many people we will have to export a surplus to earn a living. May their lot be easier than that of the early pioneers here.

A change of five votes in a Commons division the other day would have meant defeat of the Government. The Ottawa Journal stresses this incident as showing how narrow is the Ministry's margin of safety, and the improbability that this Parliament will live out its normal term.

Psychology is nothing more than a modern scientific endeavour to find the roots of the old theological doctrine of Original Sin. But who by searching can find out God? There is no searching of His understanding, but if possible and practicable the outcome would probably be the disastrous splitting of a mental instead of a physical atom with all its dire consequences.

On head of the Baby Bonus see the good times in store for expectant fathers: Officials and employees of the public services of France now are entitled to three days special holiday with pay every time they become a father, a new law published in the official Gazette. The three days, not necessarily consecutive, must be taken within two weeks of the blessed event. Employers are re-imburged from family allowance funds.

As in the case of Australia, New Zealand is not sending its Prime Minister to the Peace Conference. Leaders of New Zealand delegation will be Attorney-General H. G. R. Mason, lawyer, member of parliament 20 years and a cabinet minister for 11 and W. J. Jordan, High Commissioner to London. Mr. Mason will be participating in his first important conference overseas.

John Walter, founder of The Times, London, died this date 1812; he was born in 1739, and was known as the "logographe" printer, holding a patent for Logography, or the art of printing entire words, and then roots and terminations, in addition to the use of types for single letters, laying the foundation for the invention of the linotype. He brought out in 1785 The Daily Universal Register, the title of which he changed on 1st January 1788 to The Times, its price was threepence; in 1790 Mr. Walter was fined \$200 for a couple of libels on the Prince of Wales, and the Dukes of York and Clarence, refused to apologize or to pay the fine, and went to prison instead; at the end of sixteen months he was released from Newgate by the intercession of the same Prince of Wales. It was under his son, John Walter II that The Times rose to the place of the first newspaper in the world.

"In the face of many difficulties, N. B. potato growers went ahead and made a major contribution on the food front during the war," says the Telegraph-Journal. "They were the chief factor in easing a national potato famine. In addition, a considerable portion of their output was dehydrated to feed the armed forces and the liberated countries in Europe. But, in spite of their glowing record, parliament for some reason or other has not seen fit to offer them anything in the nature of a guaranteed minimum price—a price floor. Most farm producers in the Dominion have such a guarantee. There is a floor price on potatoes in the United States. But our potato farmers remain the forgotten men in Canadian agriculture. Hon. James Gardiner, minister of agriculture, has been repeatedly asked the reason for this in the House of Commons. His answers, from the standpoint of New Brunswick, have not been satisfactory. He has dodged the issue with a statement that if the government acted to prevent losses by potato growers, everybody would grow potatoes, and that provinces like New Brunswick, which have specialized in this field, would soon have more competition than they could stand. Perhaps it won't happen—perhaps Canada will not have too many potatoes when the crop is dug this fall. We hope not. But in the meantime preparations should be made by Ottawa for any eventuality, so that commercial potato growing areas won't suddenly find themselves confronted with disaster."

Notes By The Way

Where anyone wears his hat is between him and nobody else. It is the mark of the head. On the back of the head, it marks a certain detached devil-may-care freedom, a humor to look things over and then either take them or leave them. On the side of the head the hat is the outward symbol of an inner man who is up to no good; rakish, knowledgeable. Straight on the head, it recommends the occupant as one who always takes his over-shoes with him on rainy days, and who gets home promptly for dinner at six—if "recommendation" is the demand for the front, it signifies that the wearer's spirits are out to lunch and may not be back till late afternoon. —St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A lot of folks who say they have buried the hatchet, always remember where they put it. —London Free Press.

It is the small farms of 50 to 100 acres that produce a vast amount of food for home and export markets. True, some of the world is done by the unpaid labor of wife and children but in many instances all are partners in improving the herd, the farm and the home. Tippy duties are levied on the small unit who can do the work without outside help, except for a few days in haying and harvesting. It is the small unit who operate to solve the labor problem, in a preferred position. —Farmer's Advocate.

In the not too distant future something will have to be done about semi-colons. It is a habit that is creeping up on too many writers; without their duties they pile in a semi-colon and keep going; whereas any schoolboy knows that after a complete sentence there is a period. One readily admits there is a place for semi-colons in writing, but at the point, now in books, papers and magazines where one has to read a whole paragraph before reaching a period, the semi-colon is a nuisance. It has been known to declare that the superfluous use of the mark is typical of work done in which many things are done at the same time; and not only that but the plethora of formally interrelated and tied up with national interests in a Minotaurian maze. —Wall Street Journal.

There isn't much to see in a small town, but what you hear makes up for it. —Post Logan (Colo.) News-View.

When a single atom bomb can sink a damage 36 ships in a well-protected fleet of 73 vessels in the initial stage of atomic development, it should be plain that the atomic bomb is a revolution in the means of warfare. The world already knows what today's inefficient atomic bombs can do against the atomic age. Humanity cannot afford to risk the use of atomic weapons. And it should realize that so long as war persists and nations are at daggers drawn, the atomic weapon will be used. —Toronto Star.

To go or not to go? To travel for? Or to stay at home and make no extra turkeys on the bank? These are major problems at present agitating adults who are yet undecided what to do with vacations coming due between now and a trip. Circumstances indicate the negative. "The Nays" seem to have it when reservations are hard to get and the tourists—so far as the home farm is concerned—once unfrequented places. The sure and safe way to produce the mat. But a guest should only with ration book in hand, as a sort of synthetic country life in his own back yard is something a city man needs do not to his forenoon cabbage and cauliflower, its middle distance, and tomato plants, the gentle breeze from the Park. Lacking an attempt to produce Victory vegetables almost any back yard can be converted into a temporary vegetable garden. Park Little preparation is necessary—no mock, hanging or roller variety as many cushions as the adjoining house affords enough reading matter to satisfy a multitude, and something in a number as a temperature and incineration indicate. Such a night wind fragrance you can have or take. Prince Edward Island where one Where peace suffuses through the tranquil mind Like a night wind fragrance you can have or take. The still, unburied innocence of dawn. The solace of a woodland's seeking Down silences men deemed forever gone. The heart still finds in the beauty of a night wind fragrance you can have or take. A fitting song, a rhapsody, a sure success. Prince Edward Island! Sunlit etal of peace.

—William D. DeCoste, Canadian Army, (Temporary of Charlottetown).

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open to the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinion of correspondents.

NO CATTLE EMBARGO

Sir,—Enquires have been received at the Department of Agriculture regarding a supposed embargo to be placed on Canadian dairy cattle entering the United States after August 1st and complaints have been made that buyers in some instances have used this report in order to depress prices and to buy sales by farmers. The Provincial Department of Agriculture has not had the slightest intimation of an embargo being placed on our cattle, and Ottawa officials to whom enquiries have been directed have expressed complete ignorance of such a proposal. Producers who have cattle for sale should not be influenced by this report which is apparently without foundation. I am, Sir, etc. W. R. SHAW, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, July 26 1946.

Pain

(By Maud Roxden, D.D.)

The horrible thing about much of our suffering is that it seems so futile. What good does it do—help you, undigested, stupid, useless pain? The pain that we would escape if we could, which seems not only futile but actually a burden and a nuisance to other people. It need not be futile: that is my comfort. It can be, and a thousand times is, an inspiration. To whom do you turn when it is your turn to suffer? To one who suffers or has suffered—no one else can help you. You look for one who can prove to you in his own body that pain can be endured, that it can be conquered.

You and I have had. Perhaps we have failed already; perhaps we feel defeated. What do those not do for us, who have shown what men can suffer and still remain triumphant over pain? Is that futile? Is that useless? Is there any greater thing than this, that man can do for man? For this is not the winning of a single cause, however great; it is the victory of the human spirit over human flesh and blood.

We speak of useless suffering. We turn from it with horror and because God of cruelty because He lets man suffer so. But it is we who make suffering futile, who might make of it a light to lighten the world as the others have done, who by their disciplined, undefeated courage.

Climbed the steep ascent of heaven, Through peril, toil, and pain And because of them, we take courage. They show us what men can suffer and be strong.

O God, to us may grace be given To follow in their train.

Parents, Is Your Child Ready For School?

A child's training during his pre-school years lays a foundation for his later health and development. His enjoyment and progress at school are largely dependent upon good physical health and early home training. All children are imitators. Many habits are learned in their homes and in the neighbourhood. As your child will be entering school this fall we suggest that you consider the following points: 1. Has your child been checked by your family physician? It is advisable to have an early physical examination so allow ample time for the correction of defects before he begins school. If you are unable to go to your family physician, your public health nurse will be glad to discuss this with you. 2. Has he been inoculated against diphtheria? Has he been vaccinated against small-pox? Has he been given whooping cough vaccine? 3. Does he know his name and address? 4. Is your child contented when he is away from his parents for short periods of time? 5. Does he play reasonably well with other children? 6. Does he speak clearly and without baby talk? 7. Does he know how to use a handkerchief and has he a pocket for it? 8. Can he go to the toilet by himself? Does he wash his own hands and face? 9. Since children are expected to remove their outer garments in the classroom, can he put on and take off his own shoes, rubbers or galoshes? Can he adjust buttons, zippers and other

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fasteners reasonably well? Are his rubbers large enough for him to put on and take off easily? 10. Have you, by example, taught him to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing the street? 11. Is he accustomed to resting quietly for ten or fifteen minutes once a day? 12. Can he quietly busy himself in an interested way with some simple occupation? 13. Has he a good appetite and does he eat a variety of foods, including milk? 14. Has he formed good sleeping habits? Literature on the training of the pre-school child may be obtained from the Provincial Department of Health and Welfare, Charlottetown; from The Canadian Welfare Council, Ottawa; from The Institute of Child Study, 98 St. George St., Toronto, Ont. or from your local librarian.

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Prince Edward Island! Isle of lovely things— Isle where the magic art of God was done: Isle of exotic summer dreams and happy spring of love and warmth and sun. And quiet evenings by a wooded little lake: Where peace suffuses through the tranquil mind Like a night wind fragrance you can have or take. Prince Edward Island where one Where peace suffuses through the tranquil mind Like a night wind fragrance you can have or take. The still, unburied innocence of dawn. The solace of a woodland's seeking Down silences men deemed forever gone. The heart still finds in the beauty of a night wind fragrance you can have or take. A fitting song, a rhapsody, a sure success. Prince Edward Island! Sunlit etal of peace.

—William D. DeCoste, Canadian Army, (Temporary of Charlottetown).



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